



# Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture  
2301 N Cameron St, Rm G-19 · Harrisburg, PA 17110  
(717) 787-3904 · (717) 782-4011 FAX · [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov)

Week Ending July 13, 2008

Issued weekly, April-November

Released July 14, 2008, 4 pm

*This report can be found on the Internet at [www.nass.usda.gov/pa](http://www.nass.usda.gov/pa) and click on "Pennsylvania Publications."*

**Good week for Field Work:** The weather conditions were more favorable for field work than the previous weeks. Farmers took advantage of the warmer and drier weather. Overall, 5 days were suitable for field work. Principal farm activities included picking fruit, cutting and baling hay and straw, planting double crop soybeans, spraying corn and potatoes, as well as harvesting barley and wheat.

### PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending July 13, 2008

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
<i>Percent</i> 5	<i>Percent</i> 20	<i>Percent</i> 58	<i>Percent</i> 17

**Crops:** The corn condition improved last week. Seventy-six percent of the crop is in good or excellent condition, which is up from the previous week's 65%. Five percent of the corn is estimated as poor or very poor condition. The state's corn is now starting to tassel, as 20% is estimated at the tassel stage. The corn continued to have good growth last week, as the average height grew from 38 to 52 inches. Soybean condition improved last week from 63 to 75 percent good and excellent. Only 2 percent of the soybeans were rated as poor or very poor. The state's soybean emergence is nearing completion at 93 percent emerged, which is 6 percentage points behind last year and 3 points behind the five year average. Wheat condition declined slightly with 84 percent of the state's wheat in good or excellent condition. Again, only 1 percent of the wheat was estimated as poor or very poor. Ninety-four percent of the wheat is ripe, which is 3 points behind last year, and 10 points above the average. The wheat harvest progress continues strong with 62% of the state's wheat harvested, compared to last year's 72% and the average of 46%. Barley harvest is nearing completion as 94 percent of the barley is harvested. This can be compared to the previous year's 95 percent and the average of 90 percent. Oat condition declined slightly, with 80 percent of the oats in good or excellent condition compared to the previous week's 86 percent. Ninety-five percent of the oat crop has headed, which is the same as last year, and 2 points above the average. Twenty-nine percent of the oats are turning yellow, which is down 30 points compared to last year, and 11 points below average. Alfalfa stand condition is at 85 percent good or excellent. The second cutting of alfalfa is 65 percent complete, which is 16 points behind last year, and 7 points above the average. Alfalfa third cutting has started and shows to be 5% completed. The timothy/clover stand condition improved and is at 79 percent good or excellent. The first cutting of timothy clover is still behind last year's pace and is reported to be 87 percent complete. This is 9 points behind last year and 1 point behind the average. The quality of hay is similar to last week and is at 58 percent good or excellent, with 7 percent rated as poor. Peaches are in good condition, as 94 percent are rated as good or excellent. The peach harvest has begun, and is 5 percent completed, compared with 8 last

year, and a 9% average. The apple condition remained at 80 percent good or excellent.

**Livestock:** Sixty-five percent of the state's pastures were estimated to be in good or excellent condition, which is 5 points higher than last week. Even though a higher percent of the pastures were rated as good or excellent, the pasture condition overall continued to decline, as 13 percent of the pastures were rated as poor or very poor. Overall, the state's pasture condition was estimated as follows: 4% very poor, 9% poor, 22% fair, 54% good, and 11% excellent.

**U.S. as of July 6, 2008:** Hot weather persisted in the West, promoting fieldwork and rapid crop development, but hampering wildfire containment efforts. Scattered wildfires burned in parts of the Northwest and Southwest. Meanwhile, several days of very warm, dry weather favored winter wheat harvesting and late-season planting efforts on the Plains. Farther east, the Midwest also experienced a few days of favorably dry weather, although mid- to late-week showers associated with a slow-moving cold front brought local flooding and renewed fieldwork delays. Drought continued to stress pastures and summer crops in parts of the Southeast.

**Corn:** Corn is estimated at or beyond silking in the 18 major producing states was 6 percent, compared with 27 percent a year ago and 19 percent for the 5-year average. Acreage in all States was silking at or behind the normal pace of development, except Colorado. Condition of the crop improved slightly from last week with 62 percent of the crop rated good to excellent.

**Soybeans:** Ninety-five percent of the soybean acreage had emerged, 3 points behind last year and the 5-year average. Emergence in all states except Missouri was within 9 points of normal. Twelve percent of the acreage was at or beyond the blooming stage, 21 points behind last year and 14 points behind the 5-year average. Fields were blooming late in all States except Michigan. Development was furthest along in the lower Delta. Overall, 59 percent of the acreage was rated in good to excellent condition, 1 point better than the previous week.

**Winter Wheat:** Winter wheat harvest was 52 percent complete, compared with 53 percent last year and 61 percent on average. Harvest was nearly complete in Arkansas, California, North Carolina, and Oklahoma, and was at or behind the normal pace in most States.

**Oats:** Oat acreage was 81 percent headed, 13 points behind last year and 8 points behind the 5-year average. Producers reaped 9 percent of the oat crop, 1 point behind last year but the same as the 5-year average. Heading was at or behind the average in all States except Ohio. Oat harvest had just begun in Iowa, and was nearly complete in Texas. Sixty-six percent of the oats were rated in good to excellent condition.

### Weather Data For Week Ending July 13, 2008

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - July 13, 2008					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	91	61	76	5	1.45	4	10.86	-1.40	49	1,279	226	2,207
Franklin	89	55	73	4	0.46	2	13.91	-0.23	54	1,103	92	2,030
Meadville	85	57	73	6	1.67	3	14.38	0.83	49	1,112	197	2,038
Mercer	86	56	73	5	0.91	4	13.74	0.08	57	1,074	69	2,008
Springboro	85	55	72	2	3.04	4	17.05	4.95	51	1,011	-57	1,910
Warren	88	57	73	4	1.34	6	13.54	-0.69	56	1,021	42	1,916
North Central												
Bradford Region	83	48	69	4	0.33	5	12.20	-2.25	58	808	114	1,627
Emporium	90	53	72	7	0.25	3	9.52	-5.04	55	1,072	287	1,991
Kane	85	50	68	4	1.29	4	12.86	-1.65	54	776	90	1,595
Laporte	82	55	70	0	0.11	2	13.42	-0.21	58	956	-52	1,825
Lock Haven	91	55	74	4	1.45	3	11.44	-1.76	49	1,238	154	2,193
Port Allegany	86	50	70	4	0.84	5	10.66	-3.35	55	858	67	1,709
Renovo	90	55	73	3	0.28	1	11.44	-1.76	46	1,211	127	2,157
Ridgway	86	50	69	3	0.50	4	11.41	-3.15	54	861	76	1,726
Stevenson Dam	87	54	72	6	0.15	3	10.13	-4.43	52	1,076	291	1,990
Towanda	90	53	72	3	0.32	3	10.98	-0.30	45	1,113	92	2,026
Wellsboro	87	54	71	5	0.51	4	10.12	-1.25	56	888	158	1,738
Williamsport	88	55	75	4	1.12	4	11.06	-2.14	48	1,377	165	2,356
Northeast												
Hawley	87	51	70	4	0.03	1	10.78	-1.87	41	985	141	1,867
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	88	55	74	3	0.07	2	10.12	-2.19	47	1,263	117	2,195
Susquehanna	87	53	72	5	0.08	2	11.07	-2.42	52	1,038	233	1,944
West Central												
Butler	87	56	72	2	0.34	3	10.72	-2.72	64	1,052	-3	1,998
New Castle	91	56	75	5	1.09	3	10.72	-1.66	56	1,239	177	2,205
Slippery Rock	90	56	73	5	1.09	4	12.73	-0.42	50	1,070	116	2,037
Central												
Altoona/Blair	85	55	72	2	0.26	3	11.78	-0.60	54	1,238	84	2,180
DuBois	84	54	71	2	1.33	5	12.37	-1.37	59	1,058	75	1,953
Lewistown	90	57	75	2	0.52	2	14.59	1.36	45	1,292	22	2,242
Middletown	91	63	78	3	0.57	3	13.01	0.08	42	1,556	111	2,550
Prince Gallitzi	87	50	69	2	2.19	4	13.83	-1.65	52	980	82	1,883
Selinsgrove	90	57	74	3	0.56	2	11.20	-2.09	41	1,272	95	2,221
State College	88	59	73	2	0.90	3	14.04	1.84	45	1,282	146	2,235
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	89	56	75	2	0.40	1	11.22	-1.96	37	1,364	52	2,324
Lehighton	89	56	74	2	0.54	3	10.11	-3.12	47	1,239	-14	2,184
Matamoras	87	52	73	2	0.19	2	10.10	-3.87	45	1,071	-57	1,975
Mt_Pocono	82	50	70	5	0.48	2	11.20	-3.42	48	943	217	1,808
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	87	59	74	3	0.65	3	14.03	1.13	49	1,374	217	2,358
Derry	91	57	72	2	0.45	3	18.46	5.37	58	1,184	112	2,140
Myersdale	85	51	68	-2	0.43	2	16.85	2.44	56	853	-193	1,732
Mount Pleasant	88	55	72	5	0.54	4	17.05	2.17	53	1,166	225	2,135
Pittsburgh Intl	86	58	74	3	0.81	5	12.97	0.88	50	1,344	123	2,326
Connellsville	87	58	74	3	0.78	4	19.80	5.61	58	1,318	66	2,301
Waynesburg	88	56	72	2	1.65	2	18.71	5.66	49	1,161	40	2,131
South Central												
Biglerville	90	59	75	1	0.59	3	15.55	3.63	44	1,416	-9	2,389
Everett	87	53	71	0	0.29	2	17.76	5.95	51	1,100	-24	2,032
Hanover	89	58	75	0	0.28	2	14.19	2.27	48	1,406	-19	2,374
Harrisburg_AP	90	60	77	2	1.52	3	11.09	-1.84	32	1,541	89	2,538
South Mountain	84	53	71	-1	0.52	2	18.24	5.86	54	1,095	-52	2,015
York	88	57	75	2	2.48	3	14.73	1.52	48	1,482	61	2,471
Southeast												
Green Lane	88	59	76	3	0.77	3	13.50	0.69	42	1,427	186	2,407
Hamburg	90	58	76	5	0.49	2	9.95	-5.61	43	1,441	321	2,421
West_Chester	89	58	75	1	0.92	3	11.07	-3.38	37	1,388	-20	2,355
Lancaster	87	60	75	2	2.88	4	12.20	-1.15	44	1,396	82	2,369
Neshaminy Falls	88	58	76	3	0.21	1	12.95	-1.78	38	1,448	137	2,430
New Holland	88	60	75	2	0.91	2	13.18	-0.17	40	1,481	167	2,461
Philadelphia	90	66	78	2	0.69	3	10.30	-2.63	37	1,739	209	2,754
Philadelphia NE	91	64	79	3	0.21	3	10.35	-2.58	41	1,821	291	2,839
Reading	91	60	77	4	0.32	2	8.93	-5.40	45	1,523	240	2,505
Valley Forge Na	89	58	74	-2	1.34	2	13.69	0.32	41	1,369	-128	2,357
Willow Grove	89	61	76	4	0.32	4	12.03	-2.70	44	1,540	229	2,534

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.

Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.

Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.

Copyright 2004: Agricultural Weather Information Service, Inc. All rights reserved.

# Internet Reporters Comments, By County:

Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.

**ADAMS COUNTY, Judy A Behney (FSA)** - Adams County had a pretty nice week of weather. We received rain in some parts of the county on Sunday afternoon into Monday. On Monday, the York Springs area had 1.75" of rainfall, but the Hunterstown area only had 0.5". On the same day, Gettysburg, East Berlin and other parts of the county received none. It was hot and humid most of the week, with temperatures in the high 80's or lower 90's. Morning temperatures were in the 70's. Rainfall throughout the county on Tuesday afternoon amounted to around 0.5 inch. Corn planting is finished, and double cropped soybeans are still being planted after wheat is harvested. Wheat is still trying to be harvested in between the variety of weather conditions. Some wheat is lodging due to the downpours, and wheat quality will be affected. Fruit crops continue to look good. The cherry harvest is complete. Some early peaches and apricots are being harvested. Apples are sizing up nicely. Sweet corn that was planted early and emerged right away is being harvested in some parts of the county. Other vegetable crops are looking good. Raspberries are also doing well this year. Overall our crops are looking better with the moisture we received this past week.

**ADAMS COUNTY, Lee Showalter** - We had 0.25" in the early part of the week of July 6th and an additional 0.25" the afternoon of July 13. Soil moisture appears to be adequate for tree fruits, with many growers trickle irrigating their peaches.

**ADAMS COUNTY, Thomas Kerr** - Last week was a warm and dry week, which was good for finishing wheat harvest, and 3rd cutting of alfalfa. Corn and beans are growing nicely. Cherry harvest is finished and peaches are just beginning. Good quality hay and tonnage of third cutting alfalfa was near normal.

**BUCKS COUNTY, Michael Fournier (EXT)** - Rain on Sunday night, helped alleviate some very dry conditions around the county. We still need more rain. Corn is very stressed in some areas, particularly on the high ground. Wheat harvest is about 50% complete, and yields have been good. Some farmers will try to double crop beans this week. Oats look good and harvest should begin later this week.

**CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little (FSA)** - The topsoil moisture doesn't seem to change. As soon as it starts to dry out, it rains again. The county finally received a couple of days in a row without rain. Hay harvesting continues, but the quality has gone down. There are a lot of wrapped bales this year. Wheat harvesting has begun and will be one of the main activities toward the end of the week.

**CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker** - Last week was a week of summer showers with only 0.5 inches of accumulation.

**CHESTER COUNTY, Hollis Baker (FSA)** - Finishing wheat harvest and baling straw were the primary field activities of the week. Several rain showers provided much needed relief to corn and helped double crop wheat/soybeans to emerge.

**CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS)** - Rain was still a part last week's forecast, but producers were still able to get quite a bit of dry hay made. Field conditions are still very damp for this time of year. Overall, corn and beans are looking good; however some fields are showing the effects of too much rain. Pastures are staying in good condition.

**FOREST COUNTY, Thomas Tanner (FSA)** - Many acres of hay were harvested this past week. The quality on the first cutting is past prime. The weather forecast hopefully will be friendly for drying hay again this week. Corn, oats, soybeans, and wheat appear to be in good to excellent condition. Wheat will soon be harvested.

**LANCASTER COUNTY, Burell Whitworth, Jr. (NRCS)** - We received much needed rain on both ends of last week. This should take some of the stress off of the corn, as some is starting to tassel. Most of the road side stands are selling local produce. Some wheat is still in the field. I am not sure what impact last nights heavy rain had on the wheat crop. Pastures are looking fairly good.

**LYCOMING COUNTY, Michael Sherman (FSA)** - Crop quality is good throughout the county. Corn is progressing very well with excellent populations. Oats are beginning to turn yellow, but are rather short. The hay crop has been plentiful, but quality hay was hard to get. Pastures are beginning to slow as they go into the summer slump. Wheat fields are beginning to be harvested. Many areas are reporting dry conditions.

**SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer** - Last week was a poor week for haymaking, with overcast skies and spotty showers. Corn and soybeans are doing well under the dry conditions that much of the area is experiencing. There is poor weed control in some corn fields as well as uneven growth and yellow areas. Pastures have turned brown due to the heat and dry soil conditions. Activities for the week were mostly spraying, harvesting, and mowing pastures.

**TIOGA COUNTY, Pamela Barnes** - Last week was a good week for field work. Lots of second cutting haylage was made. Some farmers are trying to finish up the first cutting in between little showers. We got an inch and three tenths of rain on Sunday afternoon.

**UNION COUNTY, Glenn L. Spangler** - Light rain earlier in the week helped to relieve visible corn moisture stress for a day or two. Stress was again visible by Saturday. High humidity presented hay and wheat harvest problems in the early part of the week.

**WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA)** - Last week, we finally had 3 dry days in a row which allowed for some dry hay to be baled. There is still a fair amount of very mature low quality first cutting hay that could be harvested. Corn and soybeans continue to do well. Many spring-planted fields are showing yellow spots in the poorly-drained areas.

**WESTMORELAND COUNTY, Tom Sierzega (NRCS)** - Scattered showers are still hampering the hay making progress. Warm weather with plenty of moisture has allowed corn and soybeans to substantially advance in growth.

**PA Crop Progress for Week Ending July 13, 2008**

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn, silk	20	18	19
Corn average height, inches	52	59	54
Barley, harvested	94	95	90
Wheat, ripe	94	97	84
Wheat, harvested	62	72	46
Oats, heading or headed	95	95	93
Oats, turning yellow	29	59	40
Soybeans, emerged	93	99	96
Alfalfa, 2nd cutting	65	81	58
Alfalfa, 3rd cutting	5	13	7
Timothy clover, 1st cutting	87	96	88
Timothy clover, 2nd cutting	7	13	11
Peaches, harvested	5	8	9

**PA Crop Condition for Week Ending July 13, 2008**

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	0	5	19	53	23
Wheat	0	1	15	65	19
Oats	1	1	18	70	10
Soybeans	0	2	23	61	14
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	1	2	12	66	19
Timothy clover stand	0	5	16	64	15
Quality of hay made	0	7	35	48	10
Pasture	4	9	22	54	11
Peaches	0	0	6	60	34
Apples	0	0	20	54	26

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

**OFFICIAL BUSINESS**

**United States**  
**Department of Agriculture**  
 National Agricultural Statistics Service  
 Pennsylvania Field Office  
 2301 N Cameron St Room G-19  
 Harrisburg PA 17110-9405

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**  
 POSTAGE & FEES PAID  
 USDA  
 PERMIT NO. G-38